

sickness. Among the Orang Laut when a man is ill, a wooden figure of a bird, snake, fish or other animal is made, and the *pawang* or *bomo* exorcises the hantu or devil in the sick man and drives it into the figure, which is then carried out to sea and thrown overboard. Last year we picked up a wooden bird floating in Durian Strait.

Very likely the human figures were used in the same way, being carried out into the jungle instead of out to sea. Like the Rumah hantu to be seen in the woods near Malay Kampongs. These images resemble the adu adu of Pulo Nias.

Dr. Abbott.

The Orang Laut of Singapore

In Journal 33, p. 247, Mr. Skeat and I published some notes on the Orang Laut of Singapore, a race very nearly extinct, and of which very little is known, I have since come across an account of them in Finlayson's Mission to Siam and Cochin China, in 1821. The author somewhat naturally mistook them for Malays and thus describes them. "The condition of the lower class of Malays in these parts is wretched beyond what we should conceive to be the lot of humanity in an intertropical climate, almost the whole of their life is spent upon the water in a wretched little canoe in which they can scarce stretch themselves for repose. A man and his wife and one or two children are usually to be found in these miserable sampans; for subsistence they depend on their success in fishing. Their tackling is so rude and scanty that they are often reduced to the most urgent want, when they have made a meal they lay basking in the sun or repose under the dense shade of the mangrove till hunger again calls them into action. They have scarce a rag of cloth to secure them from the scorching noon-day sun or shelter them from the damp and noisome dews and exhalations of night. The women are not less dexterous than the men in managing their boats. Their only furniture consists of one or two cooking pots, an earthen jar and a mat made of the leaves of the Pandanus which serves to protect them from the rain. In the numerous bays inlets and creeks that surround Singapore an inconceivable number of families live in

this wretched manner who have never possessed a house nor any sort of abode on the land. They are constantly roving about from place to place in pursuit of fish. What they have succeeded in taking more than is required for their immediate use, they dispose of to the fixed inhabitants, taking rice, sago, betel and cloth in return. This description of Malays goes by the appellation of Orang Laut or men who live on the sea.

A number of the people called Orang Laut were brought to us for inspection. They were superior in condition, in appearance more civilized than many whom we had seen in the bays and creeks remote from the haunts of men. A portrait was taken of one of them illustrative of the physiognomy and general appearance of the Malay race, six of these men were more minutely examined. Their average height was five feet three inches, average weight nine stone eight pounds, average circumference of the chest two feet ten inches, circumference of the clenched fist about eleven inches, average of facial angle $66\frac{1}{2}$, average temperature under the tongue $100\cdot02$."

H. N. Ridley.